# **VALENTINE'S DAY**

Today let's learn what Valentine's Day is all about. As Christians let's start examining what we do and why we are doing it.

When we think about Valentine's Day we think of some of the following things:



All sorts of chocolate.



## All sorts of candy.



Beautiful flowers.



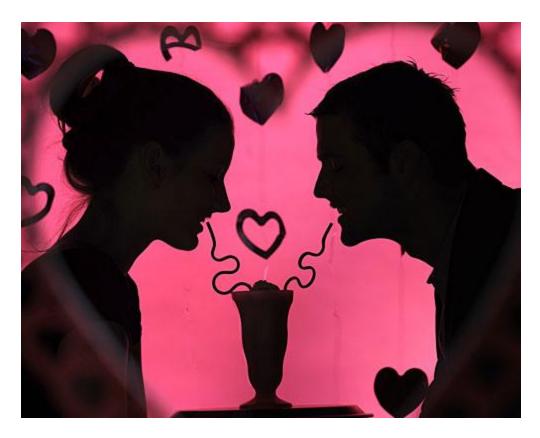
Jewelry



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Lingerie.



A date! – sweet and innocent...



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### But this is probably more of a reality.



Which usually leads to this.

To be honest, so far I have not seen God in Valentine's Day at all. Not Jesus either. So not sure where the connection is.



Oh, this must be the connection! **1 John 4:8** – But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

This is what I hear Christians say Valentine's is about, love. Did God set aside ONE DAY each year that He wanted us to focus on His love for us? Did He set aside ONE DAY each year that He wanted us to focus on loving each other... No, He didn't, He never declared to keep a holy day about love. Now let's get to the truth of what we are doing.



St. Valentine – Patron of Lovers

Here is another reason often given as to why we celebrate Valentine's Day. Oh we are celebrating what St. Valentine died for. Look at the hat (fish mitre in honor of the god dagon).

St. Valentine's Day began as a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. Several martyrdom stories were invented for the various Valentines that belonged to February 14, and added to later martyrologies. Wikipedia

Other references you will see the stories of saint Valentine listed as legend.



FEB. 15: Lupercalia (Festival of the Wolf):

Lupercalia is also known as: "pan's day"—Honoring the lord of the Wilderness, Animals, and Fertility. Coming of Spring. This is what we are really celebrating.



faunus in Roman /pan in Greek: Cornish Stone wall fountain

Let's back up and see what is meant by the Festival of the Wolf. I have certainly never heard of this.

Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Celebrated at the ides of February, or February 15, Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

\*\* Romulus /'rɒmjələs/ and Remus /'riːməs/ were the twin brothers and main characters of Rome's foundation myth. Their mother was Rhea Silvia, daughter of Numitor, king of Alba Longa. Before their conception, Numitor's brother Amulius seized power, killed Numitor's male heirs and forced Rhea Silvia

to become a Vestal Virgin, sworn to chastity. Rhea Silvia conceived the twins by the god Mars. Once the twins were born, Amulius had them abandoned to die in the Tiber river. They were saved by a series of miraculous interventions: the river carried them to safety, a she-wolf found and suckled them, and a woodpecker fed them. A shepherd and his wife found them and fostered them to manhood as simple shepherds. The twins, still ignorant of their true origins, proved to be natural leaders. Each acquired many followers. When they discovered the truth of their birth, they killed Amulius and restored Numitor to his throne. Rather than wait to inherit Alba Longa, they chose to found a new city. This is supposedly how Rome came to be. -- Wikipedia\*\*

To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at a sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome,



were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. They would then strip the goat's hide into strips, dip them into the sacrificial blood and take to the streets,

gently slapping both women and crop fields with the goat hide. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed the touch of the hides because it was believed to make them more fertile in the coming year.

**Gen. 1:28a** – And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...

**Gen. 29:31** – And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, He opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.

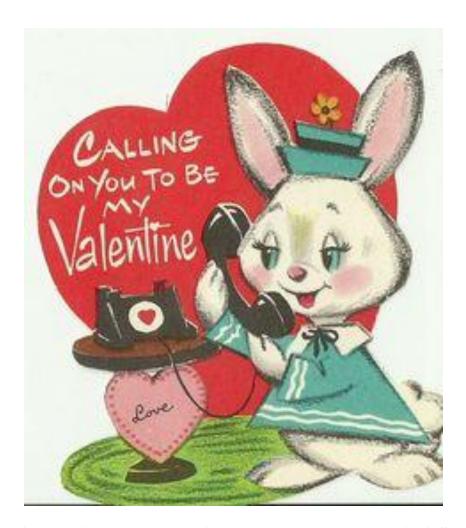
Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would each choose a name and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Lupercalia survived the initial rise of Christianity but was outlawed—as it was deemed "un-Christian"—at the end of the 5th century, when Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day. It was not until much later, however, that the day became definitively associated with love. During the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the



beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February should be a day for romance.

Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America. Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap."



Today, according to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.)

#### **LUPERCALIA**

From Feb. 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of Lupercalia. The men sacrificed a goat and a dog, then whipped women with the hides of the animals they had just slain.



The Roman romantics "were drunk. They were naked," says Noel Lenski, a historian at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Young women would actually line up for the men to hit them, Lenski says. They believed this would make them fertile.

The brutal fete included a matchmaking lottery, in which young men drew the names of women from a jar. The couple would then be, um, coupled up for the duration of the festival — or longer, if the match was right.

1 Cor. 6:9 – Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind

**Lupercalia** was a very ancient, possibly pre-Roman<sup>[2]</sup> pastoral festival (the pastors referred to her were shepherds of sheep), observed on February 13 through 15, to avert evil spirits and purify the city, releasing health and fertility. Lupercalia subsumed (included/absorbed) Februa, an earlier-origin spring cleansing ritual held on the same date, which gives the month of February (Februarius) its name.

The name *Lupercalia* was believed in antiquity to evince (be evidence of or reveal) some connection with the <u>Ancient Greek</u> festival of

the <u>Arcadian Lykaia</u>(from <u>Ancient Greek</u>:  $\lambda \dot{\nu} \kappa o \varsigma - lukos$ , "wolf", <u>Latin lupus</u>) and the worship of *Lycaean <u>Pan</u> (Lycaean's were ancient Caananites who lived in the forest)*, assumed to be a Greek equivalent to <u>Faunus</u>, as instituted by <u>Evander</u>.

In Roman mythology, *Lupercus* is a <u>god</u> sometimes identified with the Roman god <u>Faunus</u>, who is the Roman equivalent of the <u>Greek god Pan</u>. Lupercus is the god of <u>shepherds</u>. His festival, celebrated on the anniversary of the founding of his <u>temple</u> on February 15, was called the Lupercalia. His <u>priests</u> wore <u>goatskins</u>. The historian <u>Justin</u> mentions an image of "the Lycaean god, whom the Greeks call Pan and the Romans Lupercus," nude save for the girdle of goatskin, which stood in the <u>Lupercal</u>, the cave where <u>Romulus and Remus</u> were suckled by a she-<u>wolf</u>. There, on the <u>Ides</u> of February (in February the ides is the 13th), a goat and a dog were sacrificed, and salt meal cakes prepared by the <u>Vestal Virgins</u> were burnt.

The Lupercalia festival was partly in honor of Lupa, the she-wolf who suckled the infant orphans, Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome,<sup>[7]</sup> explaining the name of the festival, Lupercalia, or "Wolf Festival." The festival was celebrated near the cave of Lupercal on the Palatine Hill (the central hill where Rome was traditionally founded<sup>[8]</sup>), to expiate and purify new life in the Spring.



Here you see the wolf with the two infants in the cave, pan, shepherds, goat heads, snake, rats, bird – just demonic.

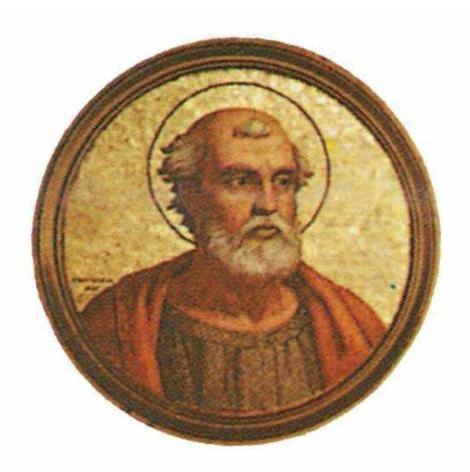
A known Lupercalia festival of 44 BC attests to the continuity of the festival but the Lupercal cave may have fallen into disrepair, and was later rebuilt by Augustus. It has been tentatively identified with a cavern discovered in 2007, 50 feet (15 m) below the remains of Augustus' palace.

The festival began with the sacrifice by the Luperci (or the flamen dialis) of two male goats and a dog. [10] Next two young patrician Luperci were led to the altar, to be anointed on their foreheads with the sacrificial blood, which was wiped off the bloody knife with wool soaked in milk, after which they were expected to smile and laugh.

The sacrificial feast followed, after which the Luperci cut thongs from the skins of the animals, which were called **februa**, dressed themselves in the skins of the sacrificed goats, in imitation of Lupercus, and ran round the walls of the old Palatine city, the line of which was marked with stones, with the thongs in their hands in two bands, striking the people who crowded near. Girls and young women would line up on their route to receive lashes from these whips. This was supposed to ensure fertility, prevent sterility in women and ease the pains of childbirth.

#### Valentine's Day, also called St. Valentine's Day:

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day probably took its name from a priest who was martyred about AD 270 by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and with whom he had fallen in love, "from your Valentine." The holiday also had origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century,



Pope <u>Gelasius I</u> replaced<u>Lupercalia</u> with St. Valentine's Day. It came to be celebrated as a day of romance from about the 14th century.

**Gal.5:6-9** – For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of Him that calleth you. A little leaven (sin) leaveneth the whole lump.

Researching the name of this festival in most reference works would lead you to a third-century Catholic martyr named Valentine. However, the *Encyclopedia Britannica* states in its 15th ed., vol 10, p.336: "St. Valentine's Day as a lovers' festival and the modern tradition of sending valentine cards have no relation to the saints but, rather seem to be connected either with the Roman fertility festival of the Lupercalia (kept on the evening of Feb.14th and the day of the 15th) or with the mating season of birds." This information is reiterated by the *Encyclopedia Americana* (article: "ST. Valentine's Day"): The customs of Valentine's Day "have

been handed down from the Roman festival of the Lupercalia, celebrated in the month of February, when the names of young women were put into a box and drawn out by men as chance directed." This is the origin of 'valentines' - cards linking men and women together for sexual purposes. This festival was "characterized in the later Roman period by wanton raillery and unkindled freedom . . . " (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, James Hastings, Vol.III, p.226).

How did the 'Heart' become the recognized symbol of the Child of the great Mother? "The answer is, 'The Heart' in Chaldee [the Babylonian language] is 'BEL' (another name of Nimrod) . . .



Now, the worship of the 'Sacred Heart' was just (justified), under a symbol [It's TRUE meaning was HIDDEN], the worship of the 'Sacred Bel, that mighty one of Babylon, who had died a martyr for idolatry; for . . . Horus [Tammuz], the infant god, was regarded as Bel born again. When Bel . . . was born again as a child, he was . . . represented as an incarnation of the sun.



Therefore to indicate his connection with the fiery and burning sun, the 'sacred heart' was frequently represented as a heart of *flame*." (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pp.189-190) \*\*The wings represent deity and ascension, and the piercing arrow is symbolizing penetration or fertility.\*\* Again this FALSE SAVIOR attributed Jesus' likeness to himself. By associating the flame and the sun with himself, he claimed to be "the light of the world" (John 8:12) who is truly Jesus the Christ.

**John 8:12** – Then spoke Jesus again unto them, saying I Am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

So, how did this pagan festival come to be known as Christian? It was during the reign of Pope Gelasius, that this festival became a Christian custom: "As far back as 496, Pope Gelasius changed Lupercalia on Feb. 15 to St. Valentine's Day on Feb. 14" (*Customs and Holidays Around the World*, Lavinia Dobler, p.172) The Emperor Constantine had made "Christianity" the official religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century. By this time, much of God's truth had been discarded and replaced by pagan philosophy. Constantine himself, was a sun-worshipper. The "universal" (catholic) church's main concern was to convert the pagans as quickly as possible. These "conversions" were to be made at any and all costs. This included allowing their pagan customs to continue - **ONLY,"Christian"** names were to be placed upon them.

Matt.15:8-9 – This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Weren't they honoring Him by saying they were Christians and going to church, but yet celebrating pagan holy days and pagan feasts showed that their hearts were not truly fixed on Him.

"Thus at the first promulgation of Christianity to the gentile nations . . . they could not be persuaded to relinquish many of their superstitions, which rather than forego altogether, they chose to blend and incorporate with the new faith" (*Popular Antiquities of Great Britain*, John Brandy, p. xi). A blending of Christianity and paganism had occurred! John Brandy also stated in *Clavis Calendaria*, Vol.1, p.196, that "for almost every pagan ceremony, some Christian rite was introduced". WHAT IS KNOWN BY THE WORLD TODAY AS CHRISTIANITY, IS NOTHING MORE THAN PAGANISM UNDER A NEW NAME. Because we have embraced all of these pagan customs right into the church, the muslims and those who know the true meaning of these things laugh at us and want no part of our God. They do not see us as living holy, because we aren't.

Jer. 10:2 – Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven: for the heathen are dismayed at them.

**Deut:12:30-31** – Take heed to yourself that you be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before you; and that you enquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? Even so will I do likewise. You shall not do so unto the LORD your God: for every abomination to the LORD, which He hates, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods.

**Rev.18:4** – And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

## Who Was the Original "St. Valentine"?

Valentine was a common Roman name. Roman parents often gave the name to their children in honor of the famous man who was first called Valentine in antiquity. That famous man was Lupercus, the hunter.

But who was Lupercus -- and why should he have also borne the name Valentine among the heathen Romans?

The Romans identified Lupercus with the Greek god Pan (*Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology*, Vol. II, article "Lupercus"). Pan was an Arcadian god of light. As such he was equivalent to the Phoenician sun-god Baal. Baal -- mentioned so often in the Hebrew Bible -- was a title of Nimrod, "the mighty hunter"

**Genesis 10:9** – He was a mighty hunter before the LORD: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD. \*\*It is understood that he not only hunted animals, but men also. He was a tyrant over men, using them as slaves to build for him.\*\*

The Persian author Rashid al-Din, in his *History of the Franks*, mentions that Nimrod extended his hunting expeditions even to Italy. The Apennine mountains of Italy also bore the name the



Mountains of Nembrod or Mountains of Nimrod.

The hunter Nimrod pursued wolves in the Apennine mountains of Italy and acquired the title *Lupercus*, or "wolf hunter." Valentine's Day was originally a day set aside by the pagan Romans in his honor!

But why should Nimrod have been called Valentine by the Romans? And why should the celebration of this day have been anciently limited to the city of Rome before Pope Gelasius' time? What part did the site of ancient Rome play in the life of Nimrod?

Valentine comes from the Latin word *Valentinus*, a proper name derived from the word *valens*, meaning "to be strong, powerful, mighty." So you can see the connection with Nimrod.

We read in the Bible that Nimrod was "the mighty hunter" (Genesis 10:9). It was a common proverb of ancient time that Nimrod was "the *mighty* hunter before the Lord." Nimrod was their hero -- their strong man -- their *valentine!* 

But why do we associate hearts with a day set aside in honor of Nimrod -- the Baal of the Phoenicians?

The surprising answer is that the ancient Romans acquired the symbol of the heart from the Babylonians.



Nimrod founded Babel. He was the first lord of the Babylonians .

In the Chaldean tongue, spoken in Babylonia, the word for "heart" was *bal*. The heart -- *bal* -- became, because of similarity in sound, a symbol of Nimrod -- the *Baal* or Lord of the ancient Babylonians!

Later, professing Christians in Constantine's day associated one of their martyrs named Valentine with festivities honoring Nimrod -- the Valentine of the heathen. In this way pagan Romans were influenced to "embrace" the church while still continuing their pagan customs.

#### Why February 14?

But why should the early Romans have chosen February 15 and the evening of February 14 to honor Lupercus -- the Nimrod of the Bible? (Remember that days in ancient times began at sunset the evening before.)

Nimrod -- the Baal or sun-god of the ancient pagans -- was said to have been born at the winter solstice. In the 21st century B.C., the winter solstice occurred on January 6. Semiramis I, who ruled as queen in that century, ordered Nimrod's birthday to be celebrated on the day we designate January 6.

The Eastern Orthodox churches still commemorate this particular day, but now call it by the name *Christmas* instead.

Later, as the solstice changed, Julius Caesar ordered the Roman world to celebrate this birth date on the new date of the solstice -- on December 25 on his reformed calendar. This day was called the *Brumalia*. Today it is labeled Christmas.

It was the custom of antiquity for the mother of a male child to present herself for purification on the 40th day after the day of birth. The fortieth day after January 6 -- Nimrod's original birth date -- takes us to February 15, the celebration of which began on the evening of February 14 -- the Lupercalia or St. Valentine's Day.





Semiramis and Tammuz

On this day in February, Semiramis, the mother of Nimrod, was said to have been *purified* and to have appeared for the first time in public with her son as the original "mother and child."

This, then, is the origin of Valentine's Day.

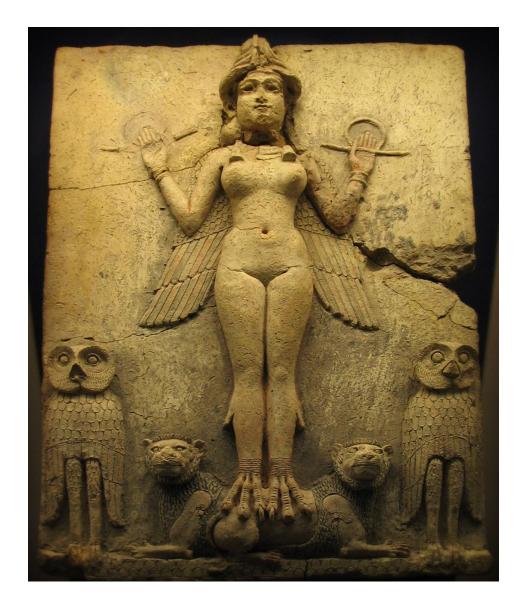


We teach our little children to celebrate this day.

What should we be teaching them?

**Psalm 34:11** – Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

**Prov.9:10 –** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.



This celebration also included worship of the goddess of fertility, Venus. In Roman mythology this goddess of fertility and sexual immorality, had a son called Cupid. Cupid was said to have attended to her and was given power to cause love to begin and to cease. This celebration was held from the 14th through the 15th of February.



The arrow was given to Cupid/Tammuz to symbolize that he was strong and mighty because he was nimrod reincarnated.



\$ 18.9 Billion spent in 2015 on Valentine's Day. Was any of this in honor of God? Did we help orphans and widows and the poor and needy with this? Did we support His Kingdom work in any way with this?

#### **Closing:**

Don't we see Valentine's Day celebrated right in the churches? Are Pastors telling their congregations that this is wrong?

**2 Cor.11:13-15** – For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

**2 Cor. 6:17-18** – Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Are we telling God we love Him with our words but then doing something that shows Him we really don't? The holidays we celebrate today – man's traditions are not in the Bible and they are all tied to pagan roots. Why do we think it pleases God?

I'm sure you've heard the saying: Actions speak louder than words. It's true. I want to talk for a minute about salvation and works. Jesus laid His life down and shed His blood so that if we just repent and ask forgiveness and believe in Him we could be saved. It is a free gift, we can't do anything to earn it – Jesus did it all for us. Now once you are saved, God says to live holy for He is holy. You can't be saved and just keep living like hell. There has to be a change that takes place. The book of James says faith without works is dead. And we know the Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God. He's not pleased with a dead faith. So what kind of works is it talking about? When you got saved, if you were sincere, then Holy Spirit lives inside of you and you begin to desire the things of God. And you want to live holy because His holiness is inside of you. What "works" do you think God is concerned about? PEOPLE – His creation. We are compared to gold, silver, precious stones or wood, hay, stubble. Are you spreading the good news of the gospel to everyone you know? Are you helping those who are in need? Are you serving His church and supporting His kingdom? When you obey God's Word you will be doing His works. It's about PEOPLE – we are the harvest!!! The more you do in His name and for His Kingdom, the more treasure and rewards you will lay up for yourself in heaven.



pan referred to as the "great god." This is the god of Valentine's Day

### Prayer

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